

~~SECRET~~

RECEIVED WASHDC. ON COMMCENTER
5:17 A.M. EDT 27 AUGUST 1968

RECEIVED LBJ RANCH COMMCENTER
5:04 A.M. CDT 27 AUGUST 1968

RELATED TO AUSTIN COMMCENTER
5:06 A.M. CDT 27 AUGUST 1968

00 WTE15
DE WTE10 393A

EA307
00 WTE10
DE WTE 3440

FROM WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM
TO THE PRESIDENT
INFO GEORGE CHRISTIAN
CITE CAP82169

~~SECRET~~

CZECHSLOVAK CRISIS

1. MOSCOW TALKS

A CZECH JOURNALIST, WHOSE SOURCE WAS A RELATIVE IN THE CZECH CHIEF OF STAFF'S OFFICE, TOLD EMBASSY PRAGUE BOTH SIDES WERE ADAMANT IN THE AUGUST 26 SESSION. PRESIDENT SVOBODA TOLD THE SOVIETS HE MUST RETURN TO PRAGUE AUGUST 26 AND PROPOSED THEY RECOGNIZE THE LEGITIMACY OF THE CZECH COMMUNIST PARTY PLENUM BY ALLOWING IT TO CONVENE AUGUST 27 WITHOUT INTERFERENCE. IN RETURN HE WOULD PRESENT THE SOVIET DEMANDS TO THE PLENUM.

2. NATO RUMBLINGS

THE CZECH CRISIS HAS SPARKED UNEASINESS IN SEVERAL QUARTERS OVER NATO'S READINESS POSTURE. CHANCELLOR KIESINGER HAS SUGGESTED A NATO SUMMIT MEETING FOR A LONG-TERM STRENGTHENING AND REVITALIZING OF THE ORGANIZATION. NORWEGIAN AND BELGIAN OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO QUESTIONED THE ADEQUACY OF THE IDEA OF POLITICAL WARNING TIME FOR WARSAW PACT THRUSTS.

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3. RECOGNITION

WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF THE MOSCOW DISCUSSIONS, WE WILL NEED TIME TO CONSIDER OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD RECOGNITION. WE HAVE INSTRUCTED AMBASSADOR CLEVELAND TO SEEK AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE IN THE NATO ADVISORY COUNCIL THAT THE MEMBER GOVERNMENTS WILL CONSULT PRIVATELY BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT CONSTITUTE RECOGNITION.

4. PROPOSED MISSILE TALKS

THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRMAN CONTAINS FAVORABLE REFERENCE TO THE US-USSR "AGREEMENT" OF JULY 1 TO ENTER DISCUSSIONS ON CURBING THE STRATEGIC ARMS RACE. TO AVOID MISINTERPRETATION WHEN THE REPORT IS TABLED AND ADOPTED AUGUST 27, WE HAVE INSTRUCTED MISSION GENEVA TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE PRESS AND TO THE OTHER DELEGATIONS THAT THE REFERENCE IS BASED SOLELY ON THE JULY 1 ANNOUNCEMENT AND NOT ON ANY US GOVERNMENT DECISION SINCE THE CZECHOSLOVAK OCCUPATION.

E A S T A S I A

LIBERATION FRONT ON PARIS TALKS

THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO CAMBODIA REPORTS THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT REPRESENTATIVE TOLD HIM THE WAR IN SOUTH VIETNAM WILL BE WON ON THE BATTLEFIELD, AND THE FRONT PLACES LITTLE HOPE IN THE PARIS TALKS. THE FRONT REPRESENTATIVE'S OTHER STATEMENTS SUGGEST THAT THE FRONT MAY NOT BE SATISFIED TO HAVE HANOI ALONE SPEAK FOR IT ON ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE SOUTH.

N E A R E A S T

BRITISH ON POSSIBLE ISRAELI ACTIONS

A FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY LONDON BRITAIN IS WATCHING FOR SIGNS THE ISRAELIS ARE CONSIDERING FURTHER MILITARY ACTION WHILE THE WORLD'S EYES ARE ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA. ALTHOUGH ADMITTING THERE ARE FEW MILITARILY VALUABLE TERRITORIAL GAINS ISRAEL COULD MAKE, HE THOUGHT THE ISRAELIS MIGHT WANT TO IMPROVE THEIR DEFENSE LINES.

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